

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 0217Z 150544Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 HA-05 TRSE-00
EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 /141 W
-----102331 150555Z /16

R 130836Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8383
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2172

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, EGEN, PINS, SHUM, ET
SUBJ: CALM CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN ADDIS ABABA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2018

SUMMARY: PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (DIRG)
EFFORTS TO CURTAIL RED TERROR CAMPAIGN APPEAR TO BE SUCCESS-
FUL, RESULTING IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE IN ETHIOPIAN CAPITAL.
THERE IS SPECULATION THAT ETHIOPIAN ECONOMY IS DECLINING
RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF RECENT STRESSES UPON IT. END SUMMARY.

1. ATMOSPHERE IN ADDIS ABABA HAS IMPROVED GREATLY OVER PAST
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THREE WEEKS SINCE MENGISTU RETURN FROM CUBA. DIRG EFFORT TO
LIMIT RED TERROR CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR,
WITH NOCTURNAL SHOOTING EXTREMELY RARE AND NO REPORTS OF
KILLINGS REACHING EMBASSY. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE A FEW EXECU-
TIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES),
EMBASSY BELIEVES EXECUTIONS HAVE CEASED FOR TIME BEING.

2. SOME ARRESTS CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE IN FACTORIES, SCHOOLS AND IN THE BUREAUCRACY THROUGH KEBELES. HOWEVER, WELL-IN-FORMED SOURCE STATED THAT PERIOD OF DETENTION IS NOW VERY SHORT (3-4 DAYS) AND CONSISTS OF SLIGHTLY MORE ORDERLY INVESTIGATION AND PERFUNCTORY IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT ELEMENTS WITHIN DIRG ARE TAKING ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPERVISING KEBELES, ESPECIALLY ARREST, FALSE ACCUSATIONS AND REPORTS OF HARSH TREATMENT. MEDIA HAVE ALSO DELETED ALMOST EVERY REFERENCE TO RED TERROR, CONTRIBUTING TO RELAXATION OF TENSION OF AVERAGE ADDIS RESIDENT.

3. THERE IS STILL DOUBT IN SOME PEOPLE'S MINDS WHETHER DIRG CAN MAINTAIN TIGHT CONTROL OVER KEBELES AND RE-ESTABLISH CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY WITHIN ECONOMIC SECTOR. ONE ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIST WHO WAS FORMERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ECONOMY, NOW BELIEVES THAT DISRUPTIONS OF OGADEN WAR, CONTINUING DOWNWARD TREND OF ALL STATE ENTERPRISES, HEAVY DEBT BURDEN FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CHAOTIC LABOR SITUATION AND PAST DECISIONS TO ACCORD POLITICS PRIMACY OVER ECONOMICS IN ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS, HAVE BROUGHT ECONOMY TO BRINK OF

COLLAPSE. IF SUCH A COLLAPSE WERE TO OCCUR IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON POLITICAL SITUATION, BUT WOULD PROBABLY BE MANAGEABLE IN SHORT TERM AND MAYBE LONGER. IMPENDING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE IS NOT APPARENT IN ADDIS AT THIS TIME.

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MATHERON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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